

THE MORNING NEWS

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Aruba's Caiso and Soca Monarch(s) to be crowned tonight!



A welcome from former NY Governor David Paterson
ORANJESTAD -- Three days of qualifying competition for the titles of Aruba's Caiso and Soca Monarch ended on Thursday evening, and judges winnowed down the field from 138 entrants to 35 finalists. Tonight, the newly completed Carnival Village in San Nicolas will host the nearly endless parade of great island music beginning at 8:00 p.m., expected to last until the wee

hours of the morning.

There has been exceptional response from Aruba's greatest bands, composers and vocalists for Aruba's Diamond Jubilee Caiso and Soca (Calypso and Road-march) contest where a landmark crown will be awarded to a king or queen in the two categories. It is an evening of authentic, original island music, in a spacious new venue, with a comfy food court featuring inexpensive food and beverages.

The evening when the signature song of the current carnival is selected is a festive event that draws all carnivalistas and regional music

enthusiasts. The ambiance is exciting as they cheer on their favorite performers, usually dressed in glittering costumes, which are also judged and receive prizes.

Entrance for the finals is only 40 Arubian florins (\$22.85) for a fabulous night. Hours of great music, inexpensive island food among the diverse offerings of the food court and ice cold Heineken beer for only \$3...how can you go wrong?

Photos show some of the ambiance on the last night of the Pre-Finals.
(see list of 35 finalist on pg 4)

By Rosalie Klein



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Landmark signing of TNO Smart Community Aruba partnership agreement



PM Eman and Jan Ebbing of TNO signing

ORANJESTAD -- An integral factor in Aruba's position as a leader in the Caribbean of sustainable development and innovation was the welcoming of TNO from Holland, an energy solutions think tank and facilitator, to open its first Caribbean branch on the island. TNO is an independent non-profit research institute with over 80 years in applied research and a commitment to creating an R&D environment which will safeguard business interests.

Yesterday, the Regional Director of TNO, Jan Ebbing and Prime Minister Mike Eman welcomed M. Bas and Roberto Henriquez, representatives from Aruba's energy providers and distributors, WEB and Elmar

N.V., plus the Director of Aruba's national telecommunications company, SETAR N.V., Roland Croes, along with Franklin Hoevertsz of Utilities Aruba and the co-directors of the FCCA, the island's public housing agency, Peter van Poppel and Maria Christina Lacle, to the TNO headquarters within the Dr. Edward Cheung Center for Innovation.

The purpose was the signing of an agreement by all these agencies for their contribution to the construction of the Caribbean's first Smart Community, an experiment in construction planned neighborhoods with sustainability the priority.

Continued on pg 3

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Social Dialogue continues on Vitality Report



ORANJESTAD -- The Vitality Commission consisting of, among others, Anselmo Pontilius and Clifford Heyliger, have spoken during the past month and a half to many parties regarding the vitalization of the labor market and protection of seniors in our community. They have spoken to the majority of the employment organizations in the community, as well as unions. They also spoke to many governmental departments involved.

During the Social Dialogue and in the various conversations with employers, unions and government departments, all parties related the increasing of the pension age and the need for a labor market management, in this case a vitality package.

People can continue to work in a sustainable manner if during their professional career they have invested well in their health and education, and also when they desire to change jobs. Healthy and vital employees this way will be able to continue doing a good job and will be motivated to still perform well, despite their age increase.

Increasing the pension age across the board in every sector brings many challenges with it. Decreasing participation in the governmental sector and utilities may have to do with the good pension that these employees have. The commission has noted that an increase in the pension age will mean that a large number of people to remain active in the labor market will be substantial.

This is why knowledge development is crucial as function requirements are constantly changing. Education and continued studying is essential in this case.

Based on statistic facts from the Statistics Bureau (CBS) the commission informed of some noticeable facts: By increasing the pension age shows the amount of persons remaining in the labor market is substantial. There are a group of persons whom even though they are not part of the labor market anymore - after their pension they will continue to orientate themselves on the labor market. For both groups it will mean placing attention on the re-entry into the market for those of advanced age.

Knowledge Economy will play an important role on Aruba



ORANJESTAD -- The Knowledge Economy on the field of sustainability will play an important role in the government's plans, according to Minister of Economic and Energy Affairs, Mike de Meza. In a recent presentation, de Meza indicated that..."the Knowledge economy on the field of sustainability, logistics and service will play an important role on Aruba; this is especially so based on the work done in the Europe Meets America Conference (EMA). Aruba will play an important role in the region in the flow of commerce between Europe, the Caribbean and South America. We have to push this to reach a growth of 800 jobs between 2013 and 2015." He added that by 2020 it is expected to reach 1350 new jobs.

The government is encouraging investors to take advantage of the incentives created for establishing businesses in the San Nicolas area, which would be beneficial for them, and will also create an economic development in San Nicolas.

The modernization of the

Free Zone has created the possibility for more business flexibility to attract more investment in this area. There are several companies that have expressed an interest and have applied to invest and be taken into consideration for the benefits created.

The Minister explained that the government's intention is to create a 'Green Zone' in Eagle, where offices can establish with the goal of supporting the third economic pillar (knowledge) of Aruba. This does not mean that these offices can only es-

tablish at Eagle, he assured.

The Minister also mentioned various other projects going to be executed and which will have a positive effect on the island's economy. He mentioned, for example, the 2nd phase of the Infrastructure and Renovation plan of the Barrios, the Green Corridor, Watty Vos Boulevard (the Ringweg 3), renovation and amplification of the Hospital and the move of the container harbor to Bascadera which will cost a whopping 123 million Florins.



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Landmark signing of TNO Smart Community Aruba partnership agreement

Continued from pg 1



Signatories and young engineers working on the project



Concepts such as reduced energy consumption and carbon emissions will be integrated into the structures, from the original design process through habitation.

"Real life testing and demonstration is a must to move sustainable technologies from concept to practical application. Smart Community Aruba (SCA), a 20 unit residential neighborhood aimed at sustainable living, to research, test and demonstrate sustainable technology," explained Mr. Ebbing.

The key objective is knowledge development relating to scalable technology solutions and business models to help make Aruba's transition to sustainable energy a reality."



As stated, the principal objectives are:

- gain experience with the integration of renewable energy into the smart grid.
- evaluate sustainable building techniques and efficiency measures.

Deal efficiently and innovatively with water and waste issues.

Develop new energy service models and learn about consumer behavior.

Create opportunities for private partners to showcase, test and certify technology, building systems and design.

The Smart Community Aruba experiments focus on demand and supply side measures. The following experiments have been planned:

- PV and Wind power generation (performance and reliability)
- Integration Decentralized Generated (DG) power into (low-voltage) grid

- Grid stability, including supply-demand management and storage solutions
- Innovative sustainable building design and retrofitting strategies
- Electric transportation
- Consumer behavior and new service delivery models
- Decentralized water purification (Memstill) – reducing energy consumption for water purification
- Waste and wastewater treatment to enable local industrial water production and extract biomass for biogas production.

The signing of the agreement of this cooperative project signals the most ambitious Aruba has known, with the greatest number of locally based agencies contributing.

The Prime Minister also applauded the opportunity this project provides some of Aruba's best and brightest young engineers to apply the skills and technology they have learned from universities in Holland and the U.S., to benefit their homeland. He credited TNO and the efforts of Jan Ebbing in recruiting and coordinating the numerous partners, and enabling this visionary project to be realized.

Physical progress has already been made with the clearing of the designated land in Kibaima, centrally located south of Santa Cruz, and Mr. Ebbing estimated the project should be completed around mid-Spring, 2015.

By Rosalie Klein

Voguish Kids

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Finalists Caiso & Soca Monarch 2014

Aband	AartistName	AsongName	AsongType
Duro	Mighty Campo	Loco Loco (like we going mad)	Soca
Dushi Band	Lord Cachete	Attention	Caiso
Dushi Band	Caiso Teddy	Chaos	Soca
Dushi Band	Mighty Dancer	Hink'e Den Dje	Soca
Impak Band	Breaka	This is We Time	Soca
Le Groove	Pink Diamond	Try to get an Education	Caiso
Le Groove	Blacky	Heart & Soul 4 D'60	Soca
Le Groove	Diamond Chip	Wild and Nasty 4 D'60	Soca
Le Groove	T-Money	Jump & Breakaway, it's 60	Soca
Le Groove	Lady Amazon	Line Up	Soca
N.B.O.	Lady V	When will we learn	Caiso
N.B.O.	Valentino King	Ikke Ikke en de rest mas stikke	Caiso
N.B.O.	Lady V	Don't Hold me back	Soca
N.B.O.	Dancing Queen	It's Legal	Soca
N.B.O.	The Baron	The Mummy	Soca
N.B.O.	Valentino King	Mighty Stinger tell me to F up Soca	Soca
Oreo	Lady Mezzo	Don't Hold Back	Caiso
Oreo	Mighty Talent Jr.	Palo	Caiso
Oreo	Lady Mezzo	What a feeling	Soca
Oreo	Mighty Talent	Carnaval Cheezy	Soca
Paraketo	Jaws	Tribute to Tsambelho	Soca
The Failures	Lord skinny	Melody in meh culture	Soca
The Failures	Dr. Boa	Old time mass	Soca
The Perfect sound	Queen Noush	Carnival we Party	Soca
Tsunami	Dr.Steeve	Heckle & Teckle	Caiso
Tsunami	Mighty Ninja	Don't rush it	Soca
Upgrade	King Jeon	e bala di	Caiso
Upgrade	Ritmo Real	Size ain't a problem	Soca
XC_Lanz	The Commissioner	Aruba one big happy family	Caiso
XC_Lanz	The Commissioner	Faya bo ta hanja	Soca
Youth Xtreme	Kempi	Mas Placa	Soca
Youth Xtreme	Razor Sharp	First Place	Soca
Youth Xtreme	101 (One O One)	Laga Los	Soca
Zeta Band	Mighty Tattoo	Nada Contra Bo	Caiso
Zeta Band	Mighty Tattoo	Los Lage	Soca

Carnaval Schedule

SAT - Feb 15: Grand Final Caiso & Soca Monarch 2014 (Location - The Carnaval Village in San Nicolas)
8 p.m.
- SUN - Feb 15: Grand Children's Carnaval Parade San Nicolas - 12 p.m.

Line-up for San Nicolas Children's Parade this Sunday!



Opening: TBS Brassband

Group # 1: Don Flip Carnaval Group - theme: Carnival Parties - Band: D-Licious - participants: 400
Group # 2: Baby Champagne - Theme: World Disney Magical - Band: Tsunami - part.: 300
Group # 3: Deja Kids - Theme: Celebration - Band: Xc-Lanz - part 100

* Band with winners Children's Calypso and Roadmarch
Group # 4: Jolly/Wizz Kids -Theme: Shine Bright like a Diamond - Band: Claudius & Oreo - part.: 250
Group # 5: Little Groovers - Theme: 12 months of The life of an Aruban kid - Band: Le Groove - part.: 109
Group # 6: TOB - theme: Good Night Sleep Tight - part.: 250

Last lap: BMW

Total participants: 1409

Hospital dietitians have important nutrition tips for Carnaval parades

ORANJESTAD — The Horacio Oduber Hospital dietitians wish to share some valuable tips to observe while spending long days in the sun, participating in or observing the Carnaval parades.

Proper nourishment is very important during these events, especially for children and the elderly. Be sure to partake of a meal at the start of the day, before leaving the house, preferably of non-fat food, such as a sandwich with a drink or cornflakes with milk.

Mrs. Geraldine Jean-Baptiste-Tromp and Mrs. Angelique Salsbach of the Dietetic Department at the hospital place great emphasis on hydration, nutrition and protection for the most vulnerable among the community, namely the children, elderly and individuals with chronic diseases, like diabetes. Do not stay long hours without eating or drinking, especially if you are standing in the heat and sun.

A person standing still uses energy, sweats and sheds fluids. It is advisable to drink copious amounts of liquid, preferably water. For nourishment, it is advisable to have 'grab and go' food. It is easier, and the food stays

fresh for a longer period, especially when standing in the sun and/or a hot environment. The dietitians recommend 'cereal bars', 'crackers' and sandwiches that do not contain meat or mayonnaise. If you are planning to take perishable food, than keep it in a cooler with ice.

Other tips are:

- Wear fresh, light colored clothing that protects you against the sun.
- Use a sun block
- Take the sun block with you to apply a few times during the parade
- The use of a hat is advisable.

Mrs. Salsbach and Mrs. Jean-Baptiste-Tromp recommend all diabetic s to inform one or more persons in their group about their condition, in case they need help. Heat and movement, with the resulting perspiration and loss of fluids, and/or drinking alcohol can lower the sugar level. This can be avoided by combining alcohol with snacks that contain readily digested carbohydrates like a sandwich, cereal bar, etc.

The Horacio Oduber Hospital team wishes everyone a safe and happy Carnaval season.

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Aruba's Weather Update

WEATHER:

MOSTLY SUNNY AND NO SIGNIFICANT RAINFALL IS EXPECTED.

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE 30 CENTIGRADE /
MINIMUM TEMPERATURE 26 CENTIGRADE.
SUNRISE 07:02 AM / **SUNSET** 06:47 PM.

WIND:

FRESH TO STRONG WINDS DIRECTION EAST
AVERAGE 20 KTS GUSTING UP TO 32 KTS.

GENERAL SITUATION:

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Aruba Racing and music collide as group of 35 heads to Aruba

UNION, S.C. February 12, 2014: There's no doubt that Team Aruba has made a name for their 'One Happy Island' among drag racing fans. Many racers, officials and fans have made Aruba their vacation spot, including famous names like Harold Martin. Now, a group of 35 folks from Union, S.C. are planning a trip of their own. And while they are sure to enjoy the beauties of the island paradise, their motive for venturing south is quite unique.

Bobby Hicks manages U.S. operations for Team Aruba and is spearheading the group's trip. A man of strong faith, Hicks says the group is heading to Aruba for a Christian mission trip. The majority of the missionaries are musicians and they'll surely find it easy to sing songs of gratitude while on the island paradise.

This group trip is further evidence to the fact that Team Aruba is making their nation famous in the racing industry and beyond. While the team puts in many long hours of hard work during the racing season, it is during the off season that their work pays off as vacationers heed the lure of Team Aruba's homeland. William Cavallo

is one such visitor who has now decided to make Aruba a regular vacation spot:

"I have had the luxury of vacationing all over for free, due to trips we win. In my type of business [office equipment sales] we are compensated with free travel. I would have never picked Aruba without talking to the Eman family. As it turned out, we decided to go. We loved it so much we went back with my entire family a second time. The interesting part is for the first time in a few decades I had to pay for this trip. It was worth every penny and we are already planning our next trip back. If you want to know what we liked the most about Aruba, it is simple: the people. They were the nicest we have ever met. Can't wait to go back!"

Friends of a former Team Aruba crew member have visited three times and by their word of mouth have brought many others to Aruba. Others who have enjoyed an Aruba vacation at the bidding of the Emans and Team Aruba include: World Champion racer Cary Goforth and Greg Brown, an Engine Builder at Jon Kaase Racing Engines, as well as fellow racer John Pluchino, whose entire team visited the

island. Pluchino crew member Bill Madden loved the island paradise so much he bought timeshare in Aruba.

"Team Aruba is a very special group of people who treat fans and fellow racers like close friends," told Pluchino. "From the first time my team met the Emans we became close friends, and they opened their entire racing operation to us, as they have with so many other teams. They promote the island of Aruba and are always ready to help get the best possible rates and fares for anyone that would like to travel to the beautiful island for a vacation. I know of so many people including my own family that have taken the advice of the Emans and have traveled to the island. All have enjoyed it immensely. Some have purchased timeshares and others have already booked a second and third trip to the island. My family and I are returning to the island the second week of April for another visit."

"When my wife and I first met Trevor Eman and Team Aruba we noticed immediately how friendly and upbeat they were," World Champion, John Montecalvo testified of the Arubans. "No

matter if they won or lost they smiled and were just so grateful to be racing with us.

You could always count on seeing lots of people surrounding the Team Aruba pit area, as Trevor and his crew were always mingling with the fans. They play fun music and give away bags filled with items that promote tourism for the Island of Aruba, as well as Autism awareness. It would make us smile to see the large palm trees in front of their trailer, even when it was cold outside!

"In 2012 my wife and I decided to plan a trip to Aruba for our fall vacation. This decision was pretty easy as the graphics on the Team Aruba trailer were very inviting, and whenever we asked Trevor what the weather was he always said, 'It is perfect'. We were told it was called the 'One Happy Island' and Team Aruba certainly exuded that so we decided to give it a try. Trevor gave me the name of a travel agent that took care of all the details, and we only needed to wait for the date. Turned out we loved Aruba and all that it had to offer. Team Aruba was very influential to get us to visit Aruba, but the Island of Aruba convinced us to return

a year later!"

Pro Stock racer, Bob Bertsch had similar feelings on his trip to the one happy island: "Our visit there was very enjoyable for the family. The water and weather were absolutely fantastic and the beaches were not crowded. The Saturday night that I spent at the drag strip was very interesting as all of the competitors knew one another, and they were like family."

Now, because of Team Aruba and crew member Bobby Hicks, a group of gospel singers will be making a trip to Aruba later this year. Five people from this group made a trip in October and now 30 others have decided to join them for a second trip back. The Riverside Boys and Carolina Christmas Band, as the entertainers are known, plan to work with a pastor in Aruba to put on a Vacation Bible School as well as entertain through their gospel performance.

Like many others, the Aruba Tourism Authority is taking notice of Team Aruba's efforts.

Continued on pg 6

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Students gather for another protest in Venezuela

CARACAS (AFP) - Students opposed to the Venezuelan government started gathering Friday for a march challenging President Nicolas Maduro, two days after another protest erupted in deadly violence.

Maduro, meanwhile, has called a demo by his own supporters "for peace and against fascism" on Saturday.

The dueling processions follow a fierce opposition demonstration in Caracas on Wednesday in which a pro-government demonstrator and two student protesters died.

Thousands of students have protested over the past ten days in the Venezuelan capital, in the biggest show of

defiance to Maduro's leadership since he took over from the late Hugo Chavez last year.

The students, backed by elements of the opposition, are ratcheting up pressure to call for immediate action on rampant crime, inflation and shortages of basic goods.

Maduro urged supporters to join him on Saturday at mid-day for "a big march of all the political and social forces of the Bolivarian Revolution for peace and against fascism."

In line with Venezuelan law, state TV did not cover Wednesday's violence, in which protesters burned tires, set fire to police cars and attacked a government building.

They were dispersed by police with tear gas.

The official National Telecommunications Council, which regulates the media, warned of sanctions against outlets that "encourage violence."

In his remarks Thursday night the president criticized foreign press coverage of the unrest.

- 'Much manipulation' - He said the Colombian 24-hour cable news channel NTN24 had been shut off in Venezuela and accused it of broadcasting "the unrest of a coup," like the one that briefly ousted Chavez in 2002.

Maduro also accused international news agency Agence France-Presse of manipulation.

Wednesday's violence led to a security crackdown in cities across a country where the economy has been battered by inflation of more than 50 percent a year.

Maduro had urged people to demonstrate in "anti-fascism" rallies Thursday, but only a handful of supporters turned up.

Aruba Racing and music collide...

Cont. from pg 5

"We are all huge fans of Team Aruba, and love watching them spread the sunshine and cheer of the One Happy Island throughout the U.S.," told Sjeddy Feliciano, Senior PR and Corporate Communications Specialist for the Aruba Tourism Authority. "The last few years have seen tremendous growth in engagement of the 'generations of the future,' as we continue to maintain our notoriety among loyal visitors. With ambassadors like these guys, it's no wonder the secret of our perfect island getaway has gotten out!"

While Aruba's efforts on the track are receiving more and more recognition after their stellar 2013 performance, they are best at accomplishing what they originally set out to do: attract people to their island paradise home.

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Syria peace talks face total deadlock as death toll soars

GENEVA (AFP) - Syria's faltering peace process ground to total deadlock Friday amid growing concern of complete collapse despite international pressure, as the death toll on the ground continued to soar.

On the penultimate day of the current round of UN-brokered peace talks, Syria's warring sides appeared further apart than ever, agreeing on only one thing: that the negotiations so far were going nowhere.

"We deeply regret that this round did not make any progress," said Syria's deputy foreign minister, Faisal Muqdad, after meeting UN mediator Lakhdar Brahimi.

Separately, opposition spokesman Louay Safi complained about the regime's failure to budge, acknowledging that "the negotiations have reached an impasse."

As the parties in Geneva failed to agree even on an agenda for their talks, the death toll inside Syria continued to climb.

A monitoring group said Thursday more than 5,000 people had been killed since a first round of talks began on January 22.

Dozens of people were killed Friday in a car bombing in front of the mosque in the southern rebel-held village of Yaduda, while the jihadist ISIL group executed 27 people as rival rebels chased it from villages in the northern province of Aleppo.

And the UN warned Friday that more than 2,700 refugees had poured across the Lebanese border amid a Syrian army offensive in the Qalamun mountains.

- 'No sense' - In Geneva, there was no

sign of progress towards ending the three-year civil war that has killed more than 136,000 people and forced millions to flee their homes.

Brahimi was set to meet the warring sides for a final day of talks Saturday, but it remained unclear if he would be able to convince them to come back for a third round.

Washington, which backs the opposition and initiated the so-called Geneva II talks with regime ally Russia, voiced deep frustration Friday at the stalemate.

"Talks for show make no sense," a senior US official said Friday.

The senior US official blamed the impasse squarely on the regime and chastised Moscow for not doing enough to get push its ally to engage "seriously" in the process.

General Dynamics gets \$10 billion Saudi arms order

OTTAWA (AFP) - The Canadian subsidiary of US arms maker General Dynamics has won a \$10 billion order for armored vehicles for Saudi Arabia, Canada's Trade Minister Ed Fast announced Friday.

The vehicles will be produced by General Dynamics Land Systems-Canada (GDLS) in London, Ontario, and the deal could be worth up to \$13 billion if all options are exercised, according to securities filings.

The agreement also includes associated equipment, training and support services, said a statement.

Fast said the 14-year "landmark contract" will create and sustain more than 3,000 jobs in Canada, and give a boost to more than 500 companies across Canada that supply parts and materials to General Dynamics.

"This is an Olympic win for Canada and for Canadian manufacturers," commented Danny Deep, vice president of GDLS.

Canada's advanced manufacturing sector supports 1.7 million Canadians and posted combined revenues in 2012 of \$164.6 billion, according to the most recent government figures.

Canadian trade with Saudi Arabia is relatively modest at Can\$900 million last year, but Fast has sought to change that by embarking on two trade missions to Riyadh in the past two years.

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Obama proposes \$1 billion climate protection fund

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama will Friday propose a \$1 billion fund to mitigate the impact of climate change, as he inspects farmland parched by drought in California.

He will propose the investment in his 2015 budget that will be released next month -- though it is unclear whether the fund has much prospect of advancing past Republicans on Capitol Hill.

"We've always had heat waves, but now the worst ones are longer, and they're hotter," said White House spokesman Jay Carney.

"We've always had droughts, but the worst ones are getting longer and drier."

The new Climate Resilience Fund is intended to finance research into better understanding of projected impacts of climate change and how to better protect communities and infrastructure.

It is also designed to help vulnerable communities plan and prepare for the impacts of climate change and to encourage local measures to reduce future risk and to fund new resilient technologies and infrastructure to combat a warming

climate.

Obama will travel to Fresno, for a roundtable discussion with farmers on the drought which has turned parts of the state's lush farmland into a Dust-bowl type moonscape.

Around 90 percent of California is reported to be experiencing severe to exceptional drought.

The drought emergency has also sparked wildfires and prompted Governor Jerry Brown to ask Californians to cut their water use by 20 percent.

Obama will pledge to implement \$100 million in livestock disaster assistance for California producers contained in a recently passed agriculture bill.

He will also highlight \$15 million in conservation funding for extreme drought areas in California, Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Colorado and New Mexico.

A further \$5 million will be provided for emergency watershed protection for California, among other measures which also include a mandate for federal facilities to use less water.

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International court to hear Croatia, Serbia genocide claims

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The UN's highest International Court of Justice is to hear arguments next month in a long-running genocide case that threatens to sour relations between Croatia and Serbia.

The Hague-based ICJ "will hold public hearings in the case concerning Croatia vs Serbia from Monday March 3 to Tuesday, April 1," it said in a statement Friday.

Croatia in 1999 dragged Serbia to the ICJ on genocide charges relating to Zagreb's 1991-95 war of independence following the collapse of the former Yugoslavia.

Croatia accused Serbia of "ethnic cleansing" which it said was "a form of genocide which resulted in large numbers of Croatian citizens being displaced, killed, tortured or illegally detained, as well as ex- legally property destruction."

Some 20,000 people died as a result of the war.

Zagreb wants judges to order Belgrade to pay damages "to persons and properties as well as to the Croatian economy and environment... a sum to be determined by the court."

Belgrade responded with a countersuit, saying some 200,000 ethnic Serbs were

forced to flee in 1995 when Zagreb launched a military operation to retake its territory.

Known as Operation Storm, ethnic Serb numbers in the region dwindled from 12 percent before the war to four percent after the operation.

Belgrade was outraged in 2012 when Operation Storm's Croatian military commander, Ante Gotovina, was acquitted on appeal by the Hague-based International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

So far the ICJ, which rules in disputes against countries, has recognised only one genocide case since opening its doors in 1946.

In 2007 it ruled that genocide took place in mid-1995, at Srebrenica in neighbouring Bosnia, when almost 8,000 Muslim men and boys were slaughtered by Bosnian Serb troops after they overran a UN-protected enclave.

Their bodies were subsequently dumped in mass graves in the worst slaughter on European soil since the Second World War.

The ICJ however also ruled that Bosnia had failed to prove the involvement of the Serbian state in the massacre.

EU plans more tests for horsemeat in food

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The EU will carry out a second round of tests to see if horsemeat is being passed off as beef, after a scandal last year rocked public confidence in food safety standards.

The European Commission said Friday that experts had approved more DNA tests after last year's found that 4.6 percent of examined products contained horsemeat without being labelled as such.

The Commission treated the issue as one of fraud rather than public health, but the scandal attracted huge attention across Europe as it highlighted the extent of industrialisation in food production and how difficult it is

to enforce standards.

"Although there have not been any public health implications in connection with this food fraud, there has been a very clear reaction from consumers following this scandal that controls need to be stepped up," the Commission said in a statement.

The 28 EU member states will set their own testing timetable but the Commission said it aims to publish the results in July.

EU Health Commissioner Tonio Borg had stated at the time of the first results last year that he would like another set to monitor and help manage the problem.

French court orders tests in quadriplegic euthanasia case

PARIS (AFP) - France's highest civil court Friday ordered more medical tests in the case of a battle between family members over ending the life of a 38-year-old quadriplegic in a vegetative state. The State Council said it would decide before the summer in the case of Vincent Lambert, who has been in a vegetative state since a car crash in 2008. Doctors treating Lambert, as well as his wife, want to cut off intravenous food and water supplies but his deeply religious Catholic parents and other family members oppose the decision and took the matter to court. A 2005 law in France legalised passive euthanasia, where a person causes death by withholding or withdrawing treatment that is necessary to maintain life. The French case comes amid often heated public debates in Europe over euthanasia, including in Belgium where lawmakers voted Thursday to extend the right to die to terminally ill children.



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The BOB Aruba Foundation, along with offering regular check-ups/screening of women between ages 45 to 75, is also actively engaged in making women aware of the need to do self controls and to live a healthy lifestyle.

Regular controls will help to avoid much pain and often long years of heavy treatment. Riri Botta, a valiant woman,

will be competing for Mrs. Carnival 2014 on Monday.

Last year Riri's world came crashing down when it was discovered that she had 3 tumors in her left breast. To remove the breast and some lymph nodes was the only option.

Riri decided to proceed not knowing what was awaiting her. With the support of her entire family and friends she went through the worst period of her life.

During an eight month period during the treatment of chemotherapy, she experienced terrible discomforts, the loss of her hair, nails became black, her weight went up by 14 kilos and pain everywhere. After this, Riri went to Colombia for 6 weeks for Radiotherapy treatment.

It was one year and a half of suffering and uncertainty. Riri still has to take medicine for 7 years, but she has not given up. Today she feels pretty good and has regained her strength and courage.

Riri is now ready to take on the challenge of Mrs. Carnival.



Riri's message is... "do your Mammograms regularly". She went five years without doing her tests and received the worst news of her life. She says,... "don't let fear and laziness surprise you with this disease."

With a positive attitude and courage, like all other women who have gone through this disease, she will dance and enjoy her Carnival along with her guarding angels.

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The BOB Foundation Aruba is available for breast screening at Frankrijksraat 1, Oranjestad.

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Exciting Harley motorcade on Aruba with over 200 bikers



The Morningnews crew posing with Michelle Begin(L), "Miss Canada"

ORANJESTAD — Tuesday morning, February 11, the cruise ship Eclipse of the Celebrity Cruise line moored in the Oranjestad Harbor. On board was a group of 38 dedicated Harley riders hailing from Canada. The bikers came

here on invitation of the 'Nos cu Nos' Harley group of Aruba.

After clearing all the necessary official documents, the bikers were allowed to disembark on Aruba with their own Harley-Davidson motorcycles,

to join our local Harley clubs for a run around the island.

Captain of the Canadian group was pleasantly surprised to see the large group of local bikers who welcomed their visiting "brothers and sisters in arms" taking into account that Tuesday is a normal working day.

Together with the local bikers the group counted over 200 participants for the joint ride which began at 8:30 a.m., under the guidance and watchful eye of Aruba's motorized police officers.

Prior to the ride, captain of the Canadian Harley group handed plaques to several individuals who collaborated in making this ride possible. Minister of Transport, Tourism, Culture and Primary Section, Otmar Oduber was also present to welcome the bikers on the island. He expressed the wish to see this kind of event more often, as it is a great promotion for Aruba.

Special recognition went to captain of the 'Nos cu Nos' Harley group, Tony Bosch, who was the driving force behind the event. He received a handsome plaque and was baptized as the 'Godfather of the Harley ride' in Aruba.

Michelle Begin of Canada, who is well known on Aruba



as a frequent visitor who founded and organized the "Miss Canada" Fundraising Volleyball tournament over the last two years, was on the cruise and accompanied the bikers during their tour.

During the ride, the bikers visited different touristic spots

and had the chance to taste our local cuisine. In the afternoon the exhausted, but happy Canadian bikers returned to the cruise ship.

Needless to say they were very pleased with the treatment they received here and promised to return soon.

'Gravity', '12 Years a Slave' battle for Baftas

LONDON (AFP) - "Gravity" leads the nominations for the Baftas on Sunday, but the harrowing "12 Years a Slave" is tipped to win the top honours at the last major awards ceremony before the Oscars.

Hollywood stars are due to pack out the Royal Opera House in London for the glitzy red carpet event, attended by Prince William and hosted for a ninth time by actor Stephen Fry.

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts awards are a useful guide to which way the Academy Awards might go on March 2.

Last year "Argo" won for best film, Daniel Day-Lewis for best actor, and Christoph Waltz and Anne Hathaway in the best supporting categories -- awards replicated at the Oscars.

With British-made films such as space drama "Gravity" proving box office hits, and UK actors earning critical acclaim, the Baftas seem likely to reward home-grown talent.

"Gravity" has 11 nominations; Golden Globe winners

"12 Years a Slave" and "American Hustle" were each nominated in 10 categories, while "Captain Phillips" was nominated nine times.

"12 Years a Slave", starring British actor Chiwetel Ejiofor as a free black man who is kidnapped and enslaved in the United States, is nominated in five of the big six categories.

Bookmakers have "12 Years a Slave" as the 1/8 runaway favourite for best film, with Ejiofor even more heavily odds-on for best actor at 1/10.

"Gravity" director Alfonso Cuaron is a 1/2 favourite in his category.

The Best Film Award is being disputed between "12 Years a Slave", "American Hustle", "Captain Phillips", "Gravity" and "Philomena".

Bafta's highest accolade, the Academy Fellowship, is being given this year to Helen Mirren, "in recognition of her exceptional contribution to film".

Prince William, second in line to the throne and the academy's president, will present her with the award.

British princes help flood victims as new storm hits



LONDON (AFP) - Britain's Princes William and Harry pitched in to help flood victims Friday as a new winter storm barrelled into the country, causing fresh misery after the wettest start to the year for 250 years.

The princes joined soldiers distributing sandbags to protect properties in the flood-hit village of Datchet, near London, in the shadow of their grandmother Queen Elizabeth II's Windsor Castle residence.

The Met Office said a "multi-pronged attack" of wind, rain and snow was sweeping across the country after making landfall in southwest England with winds of

nearly 80 mph (128 kph).

It said up to 40 mm (1.6 ins) of rain could fall and warned of more huge waves and a tidal surge on the south coast of England, where earlier storms wiped out a railway line and damaged historic cliff features.

The swollen River Thames was expected to reach its highest level for 60 years at the weekend.

The country's embattled Environment Agency meanwhile warned that the flood risk would continue for at least another week.

About 17,000 people remained without power in Wales following an earlier storm on Wednesday when

hurricane-force gales left one person dead.

Prime Minister David Cameron reiterated his promise to do "whatever it takes" to help stricken communities, following criticism of the government's initial response to the crisis.

He has said money was "no object", offering financial support for businesses and homeowners.

More than 1,000 army, navy and air force personnel have now been deployed across Britain to help flood-hit communities, and 70 percent of England's fire and rescue services are working on the storm effort.

Tornado attack jets and Sentinel surveillance planes have flown missions over deluged areas, using optical and radar imaging to help civilian authorities coordinate their response, the Ministry of Defence said.

Britain has already borrowed eight "very high volume pumps" from the Dutch government and several Dutch engineers are helping in Somerset, a spokeswoman for the environment ministry said.

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1 in 4 Americans unaware that Earth circles Sun: poll

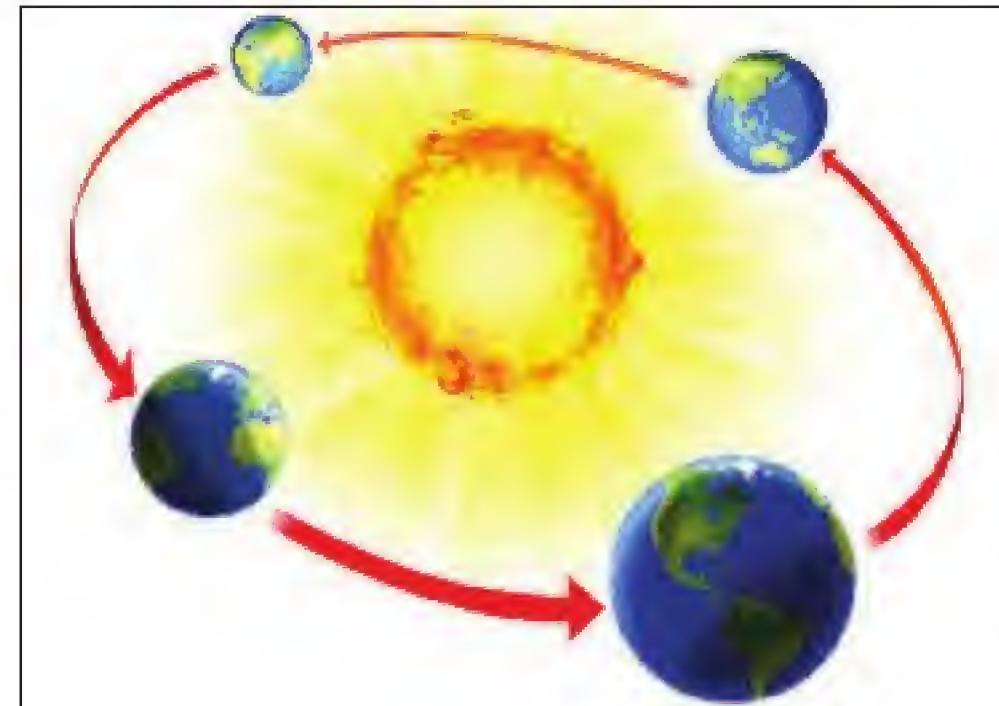
CHICAGO (AFP) - Americans are enthusiastic about the promise of science but lack basic knowledge of it, with one in four unaware that the Earth revolves around the Sun, said a poll out Friday.

The survey included more than 2,200 people in the United States and was conducted by the National Science Foundation.

Nine questions about physical and biological science were on the quiz, and the average score -- 6.5 correct -- was barely a passing grade.

Just 74 percent of respondents knew that the Earth revolved around the Sun, according to the results released at the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Chicago.

Fewer than half (48 percent) knew that human beings



evolved from earlier species of animals.

The result of the survey, which is conducted every two years, will be included in a National Science Foundation report to President Barack Obama and US lawmakers.

One in three respondents said science should get more funding from the government.

Nearly 90 percent said the benefits of science outweigh any dangers, and about the same number expressed interest in learning about medical discoveries.

Soaring numbers of Singaporean women fall prey to web love scams: police

SINGAPORE (AFP) - Soaring numbers of Singaporeans -- mostly women -- are falling victim to "Internet love scams" police said in a Valentine's Day warning that criminals are exploiting lonely hearts increasingly turning to the web to find partners.

The number of people robbed by online con artists faking romantic interest before tricking people out of money jumped 62 percent between 2012 and 2013, police said in an annual crime briefing.

Official figures also show e-commerce rackets doubled to \$0.9 in 2013.

The total amount reported lost to such forms of fraud in 2013 was Sg\$6.01 million (\$4.75 million), police said, a steep rise from Sg\$1.20 million in 2012.

Police said the victims of the

online love scams were mainly women searching for partners in social networks and on dating websites.

The perpetrators, who mostly claimed to be British nationals though it is unclear where they were actually from, would ask the victims to transfer money to save them from difficult situations.

Ng Guat Ting, the police director of public affairs, attributed the surge in cyber crime to rising Internet usage in the affluent Southeast Asian city-state.

Official figures show 84 percent of Singapore's 5.4 million population have access to the Internet.

She did not speculate on why the figures rose so dramatically in 2013 but said many of the cases arose because members of the public

were entrusting money with people who they had not physically met or known previously.

The e-commerce scams mainly hit people who made purchases of technology products such as smartphones and tablets but did not receive what they paid for.

Many also made further payments after the perpetrators told them the shipments faced problems with customs authorities or the courier.

Police said the overall crime rate dipped to the lowest level in 30 years. The numbers of murders rose to 16 in 2013 from 11 in 2012, but police said all the cases had been solved.

Singapore is known for its tough stance on crime. The death penalty is mandatory for certain crimes such as drug trafficking and murder.

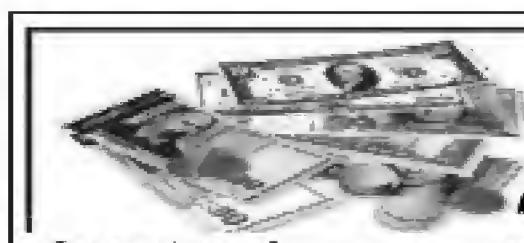
Snow storm hits Japan again



TOKYO (AFP) - Two people were killed Friday when a fresh snow storm hit Japan, disrupting rail and road travel, grounding more than 100 flights and adding to the piles left behind by an earlier blanketing. Up to 30 centimetres (12 inches) of snow was forecast for some parts of the country by Saturday morning, a week after the heaviest snowfall in decades left at least 11 people dead and more than 1,200 injured. Tokyo had a thin covering by early Friday afternoon and the weather agency was warning it would continue into the night. The agency also warned of heavy snow in western and central Japan as well as strong winds and high waves along coastal areas. The storm caused significant travel disruption with delays on the "shinkansen" bullet train services and the closure of a number of highways across the country. Japan Airlines (JAL) said it had cancelled 135 domestic flights for Friday -- mostly from Tokyo's Haneda airport -- and All Nippon Airways (ANA) grounded 40 flights across the nation. Jiji Press said 16,000 air passengers were affected. Forecasters said the bad weather would continue. Last week, as much as 27 centimetres (10.6 inches) of snow was recorded in Tokyo, the capital's worst snowfall for 45 years. While much of that snow had melted, the remains of larger piles as well as some slightly diminished snowmen were still in evidence across the city.

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Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	201.17
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	246.58
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	28.13
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	33.28
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	29.77
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	176.79
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The recovery takes hold: Dutch economy grows by 0.7%

THE HAGUE - The Dutch economy grew by 0.7% in the final three months of last year, showing the recovery is gathering pace, the national statistics office CBS says on Friday.

The economy grew by 0.2% in the previous quarter.

Company investments were up by a hefty 5.3% compared with the year earlier period as firms invested more in cars, machinery and IT. Exports rose 0.4%.

At the same time, however, consumer spending fell 0.8%. Households have now cut

their outgoings for almost three years in a row. Spending was down on food, energy and fuel but up on clothes, cars and furniture, the CBS says.

There were also fewer jobs available. In the fourth quarter, the number of jobs in the Dutch economy fell by 8,000 compared with previous quarter.

Economic affairs minister Henk Kamp said in a reaction: 'We can now leave that difficult period behind us.' Nevertheless, it will still take some time before employment levels recover, the minister said.

Cuts and tax rises have an adverse effect on the treasury

THE HAGUE - Cuts to healthcare benefits in 2012 did not give the government the savings it expected, the national auditor says in a report published on Friday.

The benefits bill shrank by just €98m, while the government expected to save €600m. The €502m shortfall added 0.08% to GDP, says the national auditor, quoted by news agency ANP.

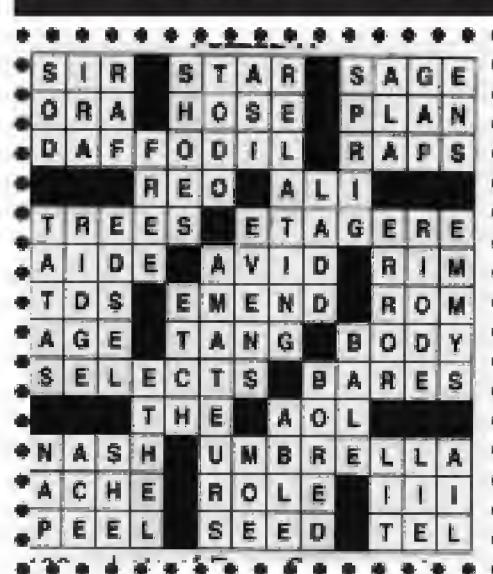
Although the number of households claiming healthcare benefits of up to around €70 a month per person did fall, the average cost per household was up €8. The government was expecting a drop of €50.

The national auditor says the cabinet gave 'limited' information to parliament about the shortfall and must keep parliament fully informed about the effects of all the cuts.

This would also apply to tax rises such as the one introduced on January 1 on diesel. Based on a survey of its members, the transport and logistics organisation TLN says the rise in diesel tax is costing the government twice as much as the amount it expected to save.

Lorry drivers are filling up outside the Netherlands where tax is lower, says TLN. Because of this, the government will receive €180m less in diesel tax, instead of making an extra €90m, the Volkskrant reports.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Oil, gold prices hit multi-month highs

LONDON (AFP) - Oil and gold prices hit multi-month peaks this week on improved demand prospects in the world's two biggest economies, the United States and China, and owing to a weaker dollar.

OIL: Global crude prices rallied on improving US demand prospects.

On Wednesday, US crude struck the highest level for four months at \$100.37 a barrel, while Brent achieved the steepest peak since the start of year at around the \$110 a barrel mark.

World oil markets are unexpectedly tight as growth in ad-

vanced economies picks up, the IEA warned on Thursday, urging the OPEC cartel of crude producing countries to skip a seasonal output drop as stocks touch six-year lows.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) said a pick up in demand in advanced countries, led by the United States, has more than compensated for a slowing of emerging market consumption.

The IEA, energy market analysis arm of the OECD group of advanced democracies, put much of that switch down to the rebound in the United States and the tightening of US monetary conditions

which has sparked turmoil in emerging markets.

Oil price support this week came also from a rise in Chinese crude imports.

Chinese data released on Wednesday showed the world's top energy consumer imported a record 6.63 million barrels of crude oil per day in January, up 5.2 percent from December.

By Friday on London's Intercontinental Exchange, Brent North Sea crude for delivery in April stood at \$108.38 a barrel compared with \$108.01 for the expired March contract a week earlier.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, West Texas Intermediate or light sweet crude for March gained to \$99.98 a barrel from \$98.13.

PRECIOUS METALS: Gold hit a three-month peak at \$1,321.52 an ounce -- the highest point since November 7.

Sister metal silver also reached a three-month high at \$21.30 an ounce.

A weaker US currency makes dollar-denominated commodities cheaper for buyers holding rival currencies.

China's gold consumption soared 41.36 percent in 2013, industry data showed this week, with state media reporting Tuesday that the country has probably overtaken India as the world's largest consumer of the precious metal.

Last year, China consumed 1,176.4 tonnes of the yellow metal, the China Gold Association said in a statement.

By late Friday on the London Bullion Market, the price of gold rallied to \$1,320 an ounce from \$1,259.25 a week earlier.

Silver jumped to \$21.09 an ounce from \$19.87.

White House insists still pushing Asia trade pact

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House on Friday rushed to make clear that it remained committed to sealing a vast Pan-Pacific trade pact, despite stiff resistance among its closest Democratic allies in Congress.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a centerpiece of Obama's "rebalancing" of foreign policy towards the emerging economies of Asia.

But the top Democrats in the Senate and the House of Representatives have signaled that they oppose granting trade promotion authority (TPA) -- which would effectively allow President Barack Obama to negotiate trade deals which cannot be later modified by Congress.

A report on Friday quoted Vice President Joe Biden in a closed-door meeting with Democratic lawmakers as acknowledging the push for granting TPA, for four years, was on hold.

But a senior administration official argued forcibly that the bid to secure TPA, which expired in 2007, and the TPP remained on track.

The Huffington Post on Friday quoted Biden as indicating that the drive for TPA -- a heavy lift for Democrats who fear a backlash from the pro-trade union constituents in a mid-term election year, was on hold.

The White House argues that it did manage to ratify trade deals with Panama and South Korea in Obama's first term.

Negotiators missed a 2013 deadline to finish the TPP but have pledged to keep trying.



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Aruba's most successful developers of secure, superior communities for both the permanent and part time resident market, will soon break ground on what they consider their most exclusive project to date. Known for 16 years of unmatched quality and service, the Cas Bon people are proud to unveil their new pet

project: O Condominiums. This is the same company which developed the innovative Gold Coast Villas community in Malmok.

Renowned for reliable construction, developers of O Condominiums consider the boutique community will be the "jewel in the crown" of the nine projects they have successfully completed and

maintain. It is only three stories and twenty luxurious units, of which 14 will be oceanfront, the remainder, ocean view. Sizes range from one bedroom condominiums with a bath and a half to three-bedrooms, each bedroom with its own bath, and an additional guest half/bath. The designs include a family entertainment room that will

be specially fitted with electronic and Internet connections and outlets enabling a state-of-the-art-home theater. An important aspect of this singular facility is owners have various options to customize kitchens and fixtures to their particular tastes and standards.

Each apartment sports an extremely spacious 35 square meter covered terrace overlooking the sea. Windows will be double-paneled and doors

have weather stripping to insure less cost on air-conditioning, which is integrated into construction. Homeowners will have input into the finishing they prefer in the kitchen and other rooms, to customize your condominium to your taste. Public amenities will include an elegant pool deck, concierge

services, lounge area, BBQ station, fitness room, assigned parking, additional outside storage for bicycles and personal items, and 24-hour security. A quiet, secluded section of Eagle beach is only a few steps from the front door.

O Condominiums officially opened the doors of their sales office onsite at Eagle Beach on December 24. Interested parties can inspect the project in a spacious plot right next to the gourmet Screaming Eagle restaurant. The project is directed towards discerning clients seeking a top quality property on Aruba in an ideal, tranquil, beachfront location.

Prospective property owners will find the Cas Bon people enjoy an exceptional reputation on Aruba for excellence and reliability.

Contact the sales office at 297-732-0000/ 297-287-5300 or visit their website: <http://www.o-eaglebeacharuba.com>

Discover authentic Aruban cuisine at The Queen's



Enjoy a true taste of Aruba without having to travel in the charming surroundings of The Queen's Restaurant in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall. Your host, Varella Innocencia has brought her very popular Oranjestad eatery to Palm Beach, showcasing authentic local cuisine only a short walk away from the major resorts.

The "hipper" and elegant new digs offer beautiful views, but Mama Luisa's magical touch in the kitchen is what

first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. She can be counted on to be conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations. As Varella says, "My mom loves and lives to cook. Even when she is not at work in the restaurant, she is experimenting with new dishes all day at home."

She is the Queen of the Kitchen."

Be sure to try Luisa's acclaimed "Carni Stoba di Ma-

machi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," or their fresh, whole snapper, with Mama Luisa's delectable salsa criollo. Don't miss the specialty of the house, a favorite local delicacy, Keshi Yena - "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all encased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It is satisfying and particularly memorable. Regional side dishes and some of Mama's secret recipe prepara-

tion of banana hash and creamy potatoes provide a deliciously picturesque meal.

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to go, reasonably priced and easily accessible. A full menu can be seen on their website, <http://www.thequeensaruba.com/>.

Mama Luisa hard at work in the kitchen

Aside from an extensive regular menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season, and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't be shy about asking for something that may not be on the menu, as they are always eager to please.

The Queen's is open daily from 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm, offering both indoor and outdoor dining. Tel: 5860606

Who's winning what at

SOCHI (AFP) - Yuzuru Hanyu became the youngest Olympic men's figure skating champion in 66 years when he won Japan's first ever title in the discipline on a day when Sochi temperatures soared and reputations crashed.

Hanyu, 19, took gold despite falling twice in the free skate, his performance aided by a world record short programme 24 hours earlier and the inability of rival, three-time world champion Patrick Chan to stay on his feet.

Denis Ten moved up from ninth after the short programme to take a first skating bronze for Kazakhstan.

Hanyu sealed his historic victory with his free skate to Nino Rota's "Romeo and Juliet" in front of a capacity crowd at the Iceberg Skating Palace, forgetting for the moment the absence of Russian star Yevgeny Plushenko.

Carrying a 3.93-point lead in from the short programme Hanyu scored 178.64 for the free skate, despite a two-point deduction, for an overall total of 280.09 as Japan celebrated their first gold in Sochi.

Chan, 23, achieved 178.10 to take silver after stumbling through Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" and "Concerto Grosso" for an overall total of 275.62.

"Of course, it's a chance missed," said Chan. "But just because I missed that opportunity today doesn't define my career, it doesn't change the fact that I'm still one of the best figure skaters in the world."

Swiss outsider Sandro Viletta won men's super combined ski gold as the big Alpine ski stars again failed to fire.

- Third silver for Kostelic -

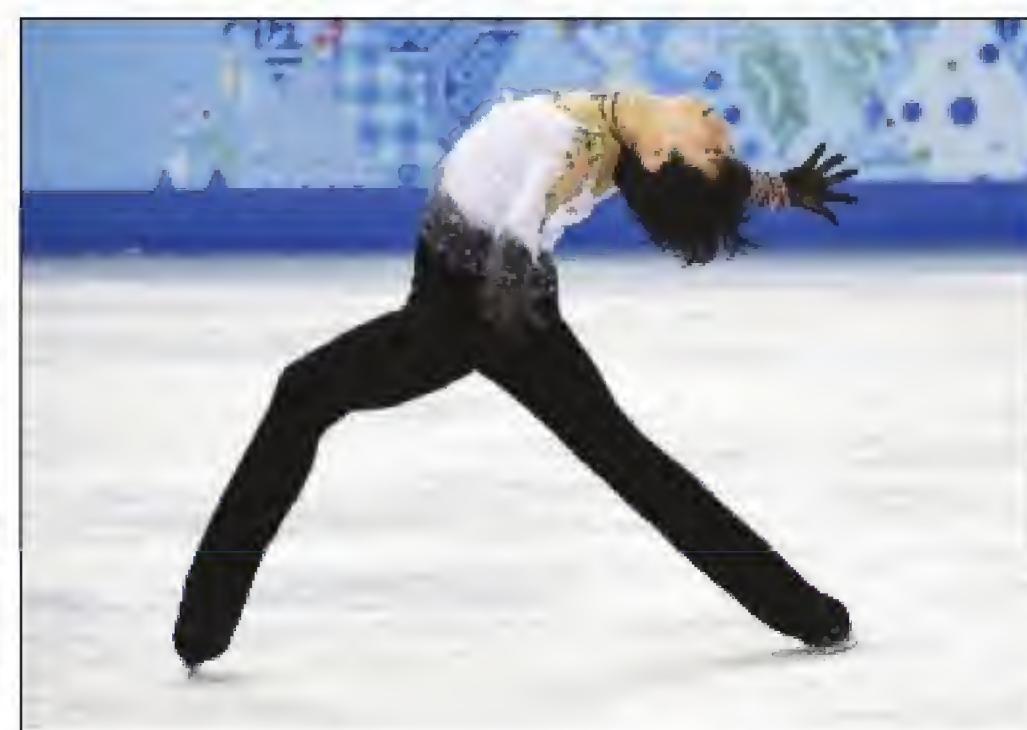
World champion Ted Ligety could only finish 12th while French tyro Alexis Pinturault crashed out of the afternoon slalom when well-placed on the mountain course at Rosa Khutor.

As temperatures nudged 14 degrees Celsius (59 degrees Fahrenheit), Viletta, 14th after the morning downhill, swept down the increasingly slushy course to post a winning time of 2min 45.20sec.

Croatian veteran Ivica Kostelic (2:45.54) won his third consecutive Olympic silver in the event while Italy's Christof Innerhofer won bronze to add to his second place in the downhill.

Victory for Viletta -- who

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2014**



Yuzuru Hanyu of Japan won the gold medal in men's figure skating.

has not had a single World Cup podium finish in the event -- came just two days after compatriot Dominique Gisin won a shock gold in the women's downhill.

"This is amazing. It's perfect. It's also a big shock. I didn't think I would come first. I'm so happy," said the 28-year-old.

Just as the likes of Ligety, Pinturault and Bode Miller flopped in the mountains, the once sky-high reputation of Russian figure skating icon Plushenko plummeted as the day progressed.

The 31-year-old double Olympic champion had retired on Thursday after a back injury forced him to quit the men's final.

But there was frustration that the fragile veteran had not pulled out after winning gold in the team competition last weekend, which would have allowed Russia to field a replacement in the men's event.

"It was a lamentable spectacle," Russian figure skating legend and three-time Olympic gold medallist Irina Rodnina told Soviетsky Sport.

- Stripped down to their shorts -

His departure was also highly controversial given the debate that preceded his selection over his younger rival, the Russian champion Maxim Kovtun, 18.

As temperatures soared, cross country skiers stripped

down to their shorts for the gruelling men's 15 km classic time trial.

Organisers also had to bring forward the start time of the morning downhill of the super-combined while a series of freestyle training sessions were cancelled in order to protect the fragile surfaces.

Switzerland's Dario Cologna won his second gold of the Games with a dominant performance in the men's 15km cross country despite the spring-like weather.

Belarus' Darya Domracheva put in a phenomenal display to win her second biathlon gold of the Olympics in the women's 15 km individual.

Freestyle skier Alla Tsuper then won the women's Aerials to ensure Belarus's most successful Olympics ever.

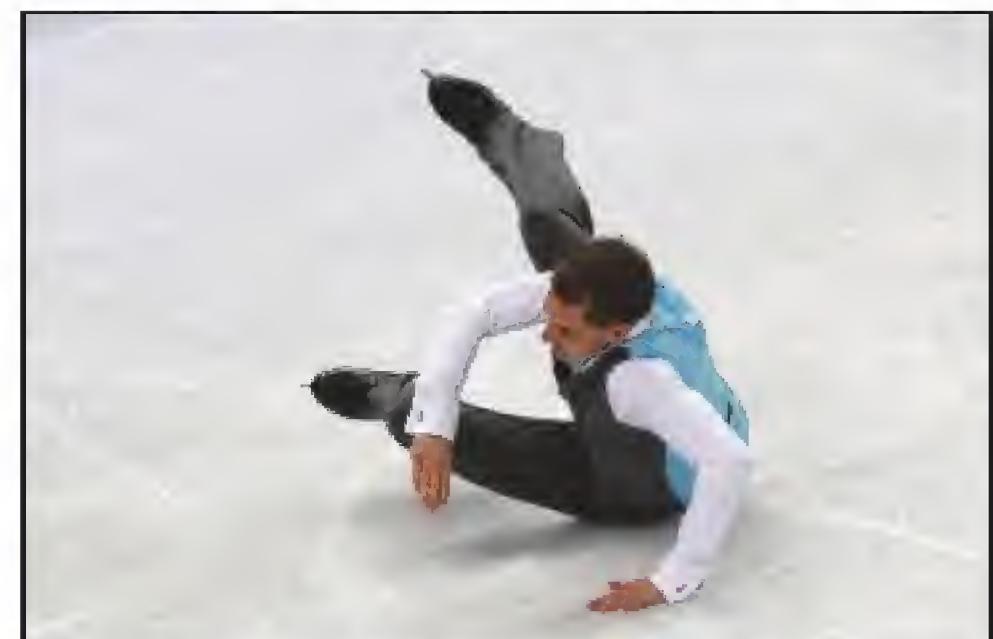
Tsuper, 34, edged out world champion Xu Mengtao of China into silver with Australia's reigning Olympic champion Lydia Lassila taking bronze.

Lizzy Yarnold earned Britain's first gold medal in Sochi with victory in the skeleton.

The 25-year-old, who led the event after the two opening runs, produced two more consistent rounds to finish 0.97sec ahead of second-placed Noelle Pikus-Pace of the United States.

Russia's 2013 European champion Elena Nikitina was third.

the Winter Olympics



Germany's Peter Liebers performs in the Men's Figure Skating Free Program



Croatia's Ivica Kostelic competes during the Men's Alpine Skiing Super Combined Slalom. He took the silver.



China's Li Nina crashes in the Women's Freestyle Skiing Aerials finals.



Great Britain's Elizabeth Yarnold finishes her run during the Women's Skeleton 4th and final Heat

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Aruba Taekwondo team ready to compete in Canada



ORANJESTAD -- This week, 4 taekwondo athletes of Aruba left for Canada to participate in the 2014 Canada Open, taking place in Montreal this weekend.

The athletes were trained by Coach Theodore Rodriguez.

It is the first time that an Aruban selection team participates in the Canada Open.

According to Coach Ro-



driuez, his training plans are in sync with his goals and he has the support of the Aruba Taekwondo Federation. After the Canada Open, our athletes will evaluate their performances to start training for the 2014 U.S. Open Taekwondo Championships in Las Vegas, Nevada, taking place February 19-23, 2014.

The 2014 Canada Open will feature three (3) main sections:

1. Elite Black Belt Senior, Junior, Cadet & Youth
 - a. Sparring Divisions with WTF approved PSS system & IVR
 - b. Poomsae Divisions
 - c. Color Belt & Recreational Black Belt Tournament
 - a. Sparring Divisions
 - b. Poomsae Divisions
 - d. Para/AWAD Tournament
 - a. Sparring Divisions
 - b. Poomsae Divisions

Other competitions are: March, the Santo Domingo Open International Taekwondo Tournament in The Dominican Republic and in April the 35th Belgian Open Kyorugi & Poomsae 2014.

Other competitions are Spain, in May and in July the WTF World Cadet Championships age 12-14 in Azerbaijan. Lately, Aruba's athletes in the 12-14 division have excelled in several competitions

and now they are training very hard to compete in the upcoming WTF World Cadet Championships.

The Morningnews wishes these 4 Aruban Athletes all the best in Canada.

We're very proud of you!

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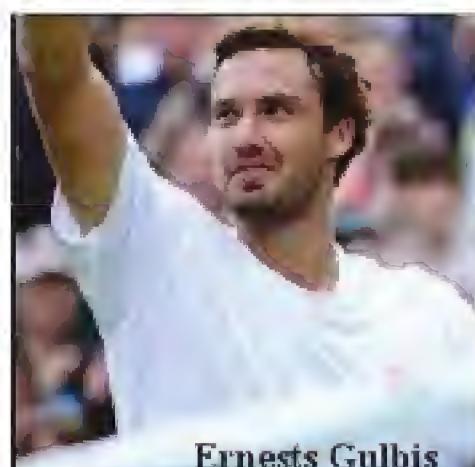
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**Tennis:
Top seeds
Potro and
Murray
tumble by
same
scoreline**



Ernests Gulbis

ROTTERDAM (AFP) - Top seed Juan Martin del Potro and number two Andy Murray were both knocked out of the Rotterdam World Tennis in quarter-final upsets on Friday by the same 6-3, 6-4 scorelines.

Latvian Ernests Gulbis ended del Potro's winning run when he beat the top seed, while unseeded Croatian Marin Cilic won his eighth match in a row this season with Murray his latest victim.

The Scot had claimed victory in nine of their 10 previous matches but was well off his game as he went out in 71 minutes, losing serve once in each set.

Third seed Tomas Berdych maintained the seeded status quo with his 6-7 (9/11), 6-2, 6-4 comeback over Poland's Jerzy Janowicz taking nearly two-and-a-half hours.

Gulbis won his second match out of five against Del Potro.

Del Potro said he has felt delicate all week but still believes his dodgy wrist is on the mend.

Murray is still recovering fitness after autumn back surgery and has not looked comfortable all week.

Olympics: Star-maker Orser finally gets his two Olympic gold

SOCHI (AFP) - Two-time Olympic silver medallist Brian Orser has finally got his two figure skating gold medals at the Winter Games.

Thirty years ago the Canadian suffered the first of the two biggest disappointments of his sporting career taking silver in Sarajevo, and four years later again took second at his home Olympics in Calgary.

But on Friday night standing rinkside dressed in a combination of Japanese and Spanish national colours at the Iceberg

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Skating Palace he confirmed his status as the sport's new super coach.

In Vancouver four years ago he led South Korean figure skating sensation Kim Yu-Na to Olympic women's gold with world record scores across the board.

In Sochi he repeated the feat with Japan's Yuzuru Hanyu, 19. National champion Hanyu has been the star of the men's event in Sochi, beating Russian star Evgeny Plushenko in the team short programme.

The youngster from Sendai then set a world record in the short programme to become the first man to break the 100-point mark and went on to take Japan's first men's gold in the free skating.

He became the youngest winner of the Olympic men's title since American Dick Button in 1948.

Toronto training partner Javier Fernandez, who Orser helped become the first Spaniard to medal at worlds last year with a bronze, how-

ever finished just off the podium in fourth.

Coaching has in some ways helped make up for Orser's own Olympic failings.

As a young figure skater Orser had entered the 1984 Games among the favourites and in Sarajevo became the first man to land the triple axel in the Olympics.

Despite his two Olympic medals, a world title, eight straight senior Canadian titles -- Orser has done even better as a coach.